FACT SHEET

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits to discharge pollutants pursuant to the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC §1251 et seq to:

Facility	Permit Number
Bonneville Project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	WA0026778
The Dalles Lock and Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	WA0026701
John Day Project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	WA0026832
McNary Lock and Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	WA0026824

Public Comment Start Date: October, XX 2018
Public Comment Expiration Date: November, XX 2018

Technical Contact: Jenny Wu
Email: Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov
Phone: (206) 553-6328
1-800-424-4372 ext 6328 (within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington)

The EPA Proposes to Issue NPDES Permits

The EPA proposes to issue NPDES permits for the facilities referenced above. The draft permits place conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the hydroelectric generating facilities to waters of the United States (U.S.). In order to ensure the protection of water quality and human health, these permits place limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the facilities.

This Fact Sheet includes:

- information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures
- a listing of proposed effluent limitations and other conditions for the facilities
- maps and descriptions of the discharge locations
- technical material supporting the conditions in the permits

State Certification

Upon the EPA's request, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has provided a draft certification of the permit for this facility under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Comments regarding the certification should be directed to:

Insert State Agency Address

Public Comment
Persons wishing to comment on, or request a Public Hearing for the draft permits for these facilities may do so in writing by the expiration date of the Public Comment period. A request for a Public Hearing must state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. All comments and requests for Public Hearings must be in writing and should be submitted to the EPA as described in the Public Comments Section of the attached Public Notice. Comments must include the commenter's name, address, telephone number, permit name, and permit number. Comments must include a concise statement of the basis and any relevant facts the commenter believes the EPA should consider in making its decision regarding the conditions and limitations in the final permit.

After the comment period closes, and all comments have been considered, the EPA will review and address all submitted comments. EPA's Regional Director for the Office of Water and Watersheds will then make a final decision regarding permit issuance. If no substantive comments are received, the tentative conditions in the draft permits will become final, and the permits will become effective upon issuance. If substantive comments are received, the EPA will address the comments and issue the permit. The permit will become effective no less than 30 days after the issuance date, unless an appeal is submitted to the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days pursuant to 40 CFR 124.19.

Documents are Available for Review
The draft NPDES permits, fact sheet, and related documents can be reviewed or obtained by visiting or contacting the EPA Region 10 Operations Office in Seattle between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the address below. The draft permits, fact sheet, and other information can also be found by visiting the Region 10 NPDES website at: 'http://EPA.gov/r10earth/waterpermits.htm'

US EPA Region 10
Suite 155
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-191
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 553-0523 or
Toll Free 1-800-424-4372, ext 0523 (within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington)

The draft permits and fact sheet also are available at the following state offices:

Washington Department of Ecology
Attn: 401 Program
State Office
Insert State Agency Address
Lacey, Washington
(208) 373-0502

Washington Department of Ecology
Insert State Agency Address
Insert Phone Number

The draft permits, fact sheet, and other information also can be found by visiting the Region 10 website at:
Insert URL

For technical questions regarding the permits or fact sheet, contact Jenny Wu at the phone number or email listed above. Services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523.

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ACRONYMS

AML	Average Monthly limit
APA	Administrative Procedures Act
BAT	Best Available Technology Economically Achievable
BCT	Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology
BE	Biological Evaluation
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BPJ	Best Professional Judgment
BPT	Best Practicable Control Technology Currently Available
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COC	Contaminant of Concern
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CWA	Clean Water Act
DF	Dilution Factor
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
DWS	Domestic Water Supply – use designation in Idaho Water Quality Standards
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAL	Environmentally Acceptable Lubricant
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELG	Effluent Limitation Guidelines
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GPD	Gallons per Day
GPM	Gallons per Minute
GP	Hydroelectric Generating Facilities General Permit
ICIS	Integrated Compliance Information System
LA	Load Allocation
LTA	Long Term Average
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MDL	Maximum Daily Limit or Method Detection Limit
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
ML	Minimum Level
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA-NMFS	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration- National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPDWR	National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
O&M	Operation and Maintenance (of a treatment facility)
OMB	White House Office of Management and Budget
OWW	EPA Office of Water and Watersheds
QAP	Quality Assurance Plan
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control

RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
TAS	Treatment in a Manner Similar to a State (EPA-Tribal Government Process)
TBEL	Technology-Based Effluent Limitation
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TR	Total Recoverable (Metal Concentration)
TSD	EPA Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UMRA	Unfunded Mandates Reform Act
US	United States
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WET	Whole Effluent Toxicity
WLA	Wasteload Allocation
WQBEL	Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitation
WQS	Water Quality Standards

DEFINITIONS

7Q10 flow (seven-day, ten-year low flow) means the lowest seven-day consecutive mean daily stream flow with a recurrence interval of ten years.

Administrator means the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an authorized representative [40 CFR 122.2].

Average monthly limits means the highest allowable average of "daily discharges" over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all "daily discharges" measured during a calendar month divided by the number of "daily discharges" measured during that month. It may also be referred to as the "monthly average limits"[40 CFR 122.2].

Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) means the technology-based standard established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) as the most appropriate means available on a national basis for controlling the direct discharge of toxic and nonconventional pollutants to navigable waters. BAT effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs), in general, represent the best existing performance of treatment technologies that are economically achievable within an industrial point source category or subcategory.

Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) means the technology-based standard for the discharge from existing industrial point sources of conventional pollutants including BOD, TSS, fecal coliform, pH, and oil and grease.

Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

CAS registration number means the number assigned by the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) to uniquely identify a chemical.

CFR means the Code of Federal Regulations, which is the official annual compilation of all regulations and rules promulgated during the previous year by the agencies of the United States government, combined with all the previously issued regulations and rules of those agencies that are still in effect.

Composite sample means a flow-proportioned mixture of not less than four discrete representative samples collected at the same discharge point within the same 24 hours.

Conventional pollutant means biological oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), bacteria, oil and grease, and pH as defined in 40 CFR 401.16.

Continuous Discharge means a discharge which occurs without interruption throughout the operating hours of the facility, except for infrequent shutdowns for maintenance, process changes, or other similar activities [40 CFR 122.2].

CWA means the Clean Water Act in the United States Code (USC) (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Law 95-217, Public Law 95-576, Public Law 96-483, and Public Law 97-117, 33 USC 1251 et seq. [40 CFR 122.2].

Daily discharge means the "discharge of a pollutant" measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limits expressed as mass "daily discharge" is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the "daily discharge" is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day [40 CFR 122.2].

The Director means the Regional Administrator of the EPA Region 10, or the Director of the EPA Region 10 Office of Water and Watersheds, the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, or an authorized representative thereof.

Discharge when used without qualification means the "discharge of a pollutant."

Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) means the EPA uniform national form, including any subsequent additions, revisions, or modifications for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees [40 CFR 122.2].

Discharge of a pollutant means any addition of any "pollutant" or combination of pollutants to "waters of the United States" from any "point source," or any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the "contiguous zone" or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation. This definition includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other person which do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any "indirect discharger" [40 CFR 122.2].

Draft permit means a document prepared under 40 CFR 124.6 indicating the Director's tentative decision to issue or deny, modify, revoke and reissue, terminate, or reissue a "permit" [40 CFR 122.2].

Effluent limitation means any restriction imposed by the Director on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of "pollutants" which are "discharged" from "point sources" into "waters of the United States," the waters of the "contiguous zone," or the ocean [40 CFR 122.2].

Effluent limitations guidelines (ELG) means a regulation published by the Administrator under section 304(b) of CWA to adopt or revise "effluent limitations' [40 CFR 122.2].

Environmentally Acceptable Lubricant means lubricants that are "biodegradable" and "minimally-toxic" and are "not bioaccumulative" as defined in this permit. For purposes of the permit, products meeting this permit's definitions of being an "Environmentally Acceptable Lubricant" include those labeled by the following labeling programs: Blue Angel, European Ecolabel, Nordic Swan, the Swedish Standards SS 155434 and 155470, and EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE)

Excluded Waters, or prohibited waters, means water bodies not authorized as receiving waters to be covered under this general NPDES permit.

Facility means any NPDES point source or any other facility or activity (including land or appurtenances thereto) that is subject to regulation under the NPDES program.

Grab sample means a single water sample or measurement of water quality taken at a specific time.

Hazardous Material means a material or combination of materials which may present a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, the public health, or the environment. It is also defined at 40 CFR 122.2 to mean any substance designated in 40 CFR 116, pursuant to Section 311 of the CWA.

Indian Country as indicated by 18 USC §1151 means: (a) All land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and, including rights-of-way running through the reservation, (b) All dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state, and, (c) All Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.

Indian Tribe means any Indian Tribe, band, group, or community recognized by the Secretary of the Interior and exercising governmental authority over a Federal Indian Reservation [40 CFR 122.2].

Influent means the water from upstream that enters the facility.

Maximum means the highest measured discharge or pollutant in a waste stream during the time period of interest.

Maximum Daily Discharge limitation means the highest allowable "daily discharge" [40 CFR 122.2].

Monthly Average Limit means the average of "daily discharges" over a monitoring month, calculated as the sum of all "daily discharges" measured during a monitoring month divided by the number of "daily discharges" measured during that month [40 CFR 122.2].

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) means the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of CWA [40 CFR 122.2].

Nonconventional Pollutants means all pollutants that are not included in the list of conventional or toxic pollutants in 40 CFR 401. This includes pollutants such as chlorine, ammonia, COD, nitrogen, and phosphorous.

Notice of Intent (NOI) means a request, or application, to be authorized to discharge under a general NPDES permit.

Pollutant means dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials [except those regulated under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 USC 2011 et seq.)], heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water [40 CFR 122.2].

Services means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries or NMFS)

Technology-based effluent limitation (TBEL) means treatment requirements under Section 301(b) of the Clean Water Act that represent the minimum level of control that must be imposed in a permit issued under section 402 of the Clean Water Act. EPA is required to promulgate technology-based limitations and standards that reflect pollutant reductions that can be achieved by categories, or subcategories of industrial point sources using specific technologies that EPA identifies as meeting the statutorily prescribed level of control under the authority of CWA sections 301, 304, 306, 307, 308, 402, and 501 [33 USC § 1311, 1314,1316,1318,1342, and 1361].

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) means the sum of the individual wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point sources, load allocations (LAs) for non-point sources, and natural background when allocating pollutant loading to a particular waterbody. The TMDL establishes loads at levels that meet applicable water quality standards.

Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation [40 CFR 122.41(n)].

Waters of the United States or waters of the U.S. means:
(a) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
(b) All interstate waters, including interstate "wetlands;"
(c) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, "wetlands," sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
(1) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
(2) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
(3) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;
(d) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
(e) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this definition;
(f) The territorial sea; and

(g) "Wetlands" adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this definition [40 CFR 122.2].

I. Background Information

A. General Information

This fact sheet provides information on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for four hydroelectric projects: the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, John Day Project, and McNary Lock and Dam. The EPA is including these facilities in one fact sheet because they have similar operations and discharges, and have outfalls into the same waterbody, the Lower Columbia River. In addition, all of these hydroelectric projects are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Below is more information on each facility.

Table 1. General Facility Information for Bonneville Project

NPDES Permit #:	WA0026778
Applicant:	Bonneville Project, USACE
Type of Ownership	Federal
Physical Address:	Exit 40, Interstate 84 Cascade Locks, Oregon 97014
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 150 Cascade Locks, Oregon 97014
Facility Contact:	Melissa McBain Environmental Compliance Coordinator (541) 374-4575
Facility Location:	Latitude: 45° 38' 57" N Longitude: 121° 56' 12" W
Receiving Water	Columbia River, Washington
Facility Outfalls	001 Latitude: 45° 38' 57" N Longitude: 121° 56' 12" W 002 Latitude: 45° 38' 57" N Longitude: 121° 56' 13" W 003 Latitude: 45° 38' 56" N Longitude: 121° 56' 12" W 004a Latitude: 45° 38' 56" N Longitude: 121° 56' 14" W 004b Latitude: 45° 38' 56" N Longitude: 121° 56' 14" W 005a Latitude: 45° 38' 55" N Longitude: 121° 56' 15" W 005b Latitude: 45° 38' 55" N Longitude: 121° 56' 15" W 006a Latitude: 45° 38' 55" N Longitude: 121° 56' 15" W 006b Latitude: 45° 38' 55" N Longitude: 121° 56' 15" W 007a Latitude: 45° 38' 54" N Longitude: 121° 56' 16" W 007b Latitude: 45° 38' 54" N Longitude: 121° 56' 16" W 008a Latitude: 45° 38' 53" N Longitude: 121° 56' 17" W 008b Latitude: 45° 38' 53" N Longitude: 121° 56' 17" W 009a Latitude: 45° 38' 53" N Longitude: 121° 56' 18" W 009b Latitude: 45° 38' 53" N Longitude: 121° 56' 18" W 010a Latitude: 45° 38' 52" N Longitude: 121° 56' 19" W 010b Latitude: 45° 38' 52" N Longitude: 121° 56' 19" W 011a Latitude: 45° 38' 51" N Longitude: 121° 56' 20" W 011b Latitude: 45° 38' 51" N Longitude: 121° 56' 20" W 012 Latitude: 45° 38' 55" N Longitude: 121° 56' 14" W 013 Latitude: 45° 38' 51" N Longitude: 121° 56' 20" W 014 Latitude: 45° 38' 50" N Longitude: 121° 56' 19" W 015 Latitude: 45° 38' 51" N Longitude: 121° 56' 20" W

Table 2. General Facility Information for The Dalles Lock and Dam

NPDES Permit #:	WA0026701
Applicant:	The Dalles Lock and Dam, USACE
Type of Ownership	Federal
Physical Address:	Exit 88, Interstate 84 The Dalles, Oregon 97058
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 564 The Dalles, Oregon 97058
Facility Contact:	Carson Freels PO Box 564 (541)298-7415
Operator Name:	Jose Aguilar PO Box 2946 Portland, Oregon 97208
Facility Location:	Latitude: 45° 37' 2" N Longitude: 121° 7' 28" W
Receiving Water	Columbia River, Washington
Facility Outfalls	001 Latitude: 45° 37' 2" N Longitude: 121° 7' 28" W 002 Latitude: 45° 37' 2" N Longitude: 121° 7' 28" W 003 Latitude: 45° 36' 57" N Longitude: 121° 7' 35" W 004 Latitude: 45° 36' 58" N Longitude: 121° 7' 33" W 005 Latitude: 45° 36' 59" N Longitude: 121° 7' 31" W 006 Latitude: 45° 37' 0.1" N Longitude: 121° 7' 29" W 007 Latitude: 45° 37' 2" N Longitude: 121° 7' 27" W 008 Latitude: 45° 37' 3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 25" W 009 Latitude: 45° 37' 4" N Longitude: 121° 7' 23" W 010 Latitude: 45° 37' 5" N Longitude: 121° 7' 22" W 011 Latitude: 45° 37' 7" N Longitude: 121° 7' 20" W 012 Latitude: 45° 37' 8" N Longitude: 121° 7' 18" W 013 Latitude: 45° 37' 9" N Longitude: 121° 7' 16" W 014 Latitude: 45° 36' 56" N Longitude: 121° 7' 36" W 015 Latitude: 45° 36' 45" N Longitude: 121° 7' 53" W 016 Latitude: 45° 36' 53" N Longitude: 121° 8' 8" W 017 Latitude: 45° 36' 57" N Longitude: 121° 8' 15" W 018 Latitude: 45° 36' 57" N Longitude: 121° 7' 37" W 019 Latitude: 45° 36' 58" N Longitude: 121° 7' 36" W 022 Latitude: 45° 36' 60" N Longitude: 121° 7' 33" W 023 Latitude: 45° 37' 0.3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 32" W 026 Latitude: 45° 37' 3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 29" W 027 Latitude: 45° 37' 3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 28" W 028 Latitude: 45° 37' 4" N Longitude: 121° 7' 27" W 029 Latitude: 45° 37' 5" N Longitude: 121° 7' 26" W 030 Latitude: 45° 37' 5" N Longitude: 121° 7' 25" W 031 Latitude: 45° 37' 6" N Longitude: 121° 7' 24" W 032 Latitude: 45° 37' 1" N Longitude: 121° 7' 28" W 033 Latitude: 45° 37' 3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 29" W 034 Latitude: 45° 37' 3" N Longitude: 121° 7' 29" W 035 Latitude: 45° 37' 12" N Longitude: 121° 7' 12" W

Table 3. General Facility Information for John Day Project

NPDES Permit #:	WA0026832
Applicant:	John Day Project, USACE
Type of Ownership	Federal
Physical Address:	Exit 109, Interstate 84 Rufus, Oregon 97050
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 823 Rufus, Oregon 97050
Facility Contact:	John Goldsberry Environmental Compliance Coordinator (541) 506-7897
Operator Name:	Jose Aguilar PO Box 2946 Portland, Oregon 97208
Facility Location:	Latitude: 45° 43' 0" N Longitude: 120° 41' 30" W
Receiving Water	Columbia River, Washington
Facility Outfalls	018 Latitude: 45° 42' 53" N Longitude: 120° 41' 34" W 019 Latitude: 45° 42' 53" N Longitude: 120° 41' 35" W 020 Latitude: 45° 42' 7" N Longitude: 120° 41' 47" W 021 Latitude: 45° 43' 7" N Longitude: 120° 41' 47" W 023 Latitude: 45° 42' 57" N Longitude: 120° 41' 38" W 024 Latitude: 45° 42' 57" N Longitude: 120° 41' 38" W 025 Latitude: 45° 42' 57" N Longitude: 120° 41' 38" W 026 Latitude: 45° 43' 6" N Longitude: 120° 41' 48" W 027 Latitude: 45° 43' 7" N Longitude: 120° 41' 47" W 028 Latitude: 45° 43' 4" N Longitude: 120° 41' 55" W 029 Latitude: 45° 43' 6" N Longitude: 120° 41' 58" W 043 Latitude: 45° 42' 53" N Longitude: 120° 41' 35" W

Table 4. General Facility Information for McNary Lock and Dam

NPDES Permit #:	WA0026824
Applicant:	McNary Lock and Dam, USACE
Type of Ownership	Federal
Physical Address:	82925 DeVore Road Umatilla, Oregon 97882
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1230 Umatilla, Oregon 97882
Facility Contact:	Baron J. Fiet II (541) 922-2219
Operator Name:	US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District 201 North 3rd Avenue Walla Walla, Washington 99362
Facility Location:	Latitude: 45° 56' 24" N Longitude: 119° 17' 6" W
Receiving Water	Columbia River, Washington
Facility Outfalls	021 Latitude:45° 56' 24" N Longitude: 119° 17' 6" W 022 Latitude: 45° 56' 24" N Longitude: 119° 17' 6" W

B. Permit History

These are the first NPDES permits issued for the facilities. In July 2013, Columbia Riverkeeper filed a complaint against the USACE for discharges of oil and grease without NPDES permits. On August 4, 2014, the USACE and Columbia Riverkeeper reached a Settlement Agreement where, among other things, the USACE agreed to submit NPDES permit applications for outfalls with potential pollutant discharges for the facilities listed above.

The USACE submitted NPDES applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) for permit issuance on the following dates:

Facility	Application Submittal Date
Bonneville Project	5/4/2015
The Dalles Lock and Dam	1/12/09; Supplementary materials submitted 6/29/2015, 8/29/2018
John Day Project	8/12/2015; Supplementary materials submitted 8/29/2018
McNary Lock and Dam	8/5/2015

The EPA determined that the applications were complete.

C. Tribal Consultation

The EPA contacted tribal staff of the Cowlitz Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation by electronic mail on August 8, 2018. On September 19, 2018, the EPA presented information on the permits to tribes, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Upper Columbia United Tribes, and the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation. The EPA mailed letters to each tribe on September XX [**insert date**], 2018 to inform them of the status of the NPDES permits for the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric facilities and invite them to tribal consultation. The

EPA continues to provide regular updates on permit progress to interested tribes and tribal organizations.

II. Background Information

A. Geographic Area

The USACE owns and operates the four hydroelectric generating facilities in the Lower Columbia River. The state line between Washington and Oregon is in the middle of the Columbia River, and thus, the four facilities discharge in both Oregon and Washington waters. As a result, jurisdiction for NPDES permitting in the Columbia River is divided between Washington and Oregon. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) has jurisdiction to issue NPDES permits to federal facilities in Oregon. However, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) does not have authority to issue such permits, thus, the EPA is the permitting authority for federal facilities in Washington[1]. These hydroelectric generating facilities are located in the following areas:

Facility	Location
Bonneville Project	Cascade Locks, Oregon
The Dalles Lock and Dam	The Dalles, Oregon
John Day Project	Rufus, Oregon
McNary Lock and Dam	Umatilla, Oregon

B. Facility Operations and Types of Discharges

The four facilities in this fact sheet are hydroelectric generating facilities. The hydroelectric generating facilities in the Lower Columbia River include the generating station(s), dam(s), reservoir(s), navigation locks, canal system or tunnel system at certain facilities, and associated equipment and structures used in the generation of hydroelectric power. These hydroelectric generating facilities generate electricity through the use of falling or flowing water to drive turbines and generators; thus, the facilities have essentially the same type of operation and discharges. The types of discharges from these facilities are: cooling water; equipment and floor drain-related water; and equipment and facility maintenance-related water. The Dalles Lock and Dam and Bonneville Project also discharge equipment-related backwash strainer water, which are on cooling water intakes. Hydroelectric generating water may also be exposed to lubricants on hydroelectric generating equipment, such as wicket gates and lubricated wire rope, and other in-water equipment.

Cooling Water Discharges

Facilities use river water to cool equipment resulting in discharges of non-contact cooling water and direct cooling water to the river. Non-contact cooling water is defined as "water used for cooling which does not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product, waste product or finished product" (40 CFR 401.11(n)). Non-contact cooling water is used in cooling the turbine bearings, guide bearings, air compressors, generators, HVAC chillers, and power transformers. At pump storage projects, non-contact cooling water is used in cooling additional equipment which includes the air compressors, air handlers, air conditioners, and rheostats. Direct cooling water is used to directly cool the bearings. A facility may divert certain equipment-related cooling waters to the equipment and floor drain water drainage system.

A separate equipment operation is the strainer operation on the cooling water intake line. These strainers intercept materials greater than 1/8" to ensure that material does not enter the generator and

[1] NPDES Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Washington and United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, July 2018.

bearing heat exchangers where it could clog tubes. When material accumulates on the strainer at a set point, a sensor is activated which flushes the material into the cooling water line. This operation produces backwash water discharges back into the cooling water line during cleaning of river debris and silt from the strainer's screens at The Dalles Lock and Dam and Bonneville Project. Other facilities have strainers to remove debris and silt which are manually removed and cleaned.

Related to cooling water discharges are the cooling water intake structures. Cooling water intake structures in other industrial sectors typically remove water directly from the river. These structures may have screens to remove debris, which fish can become impinged on. Cooling water intake structures can also harm organisms that are entrained into the facility and unable to pass through. Hydroelectric generating facilities in the Lower Columbia River extract river water for hydroelectric generating purposes. This water is considered pass through water, where an NPDES permit is not required (See Part II.C.). Therefore, the hydroelectric generating water intake is not considered the point of cooling water intake. However, at the point that water is extracted for cooling water, its status moves from pass through water where a NPDES permit is not required, to cooling water where a NPDES permit is required. The cooling water intake structure in these hydroelectric generating facilities is the point where water is diverted from the scroll case to be used for cooling.

Equipment Drainage and Floor Drain Discharges
Equipment drainage and floor drain discharges are the collection of various points of internal station drainage discharges. Drainage is collected by floor drains, trench drains, wheel pit drains, station sumps, spillway sumps, and navigation locks sumps. These drainage collection systems drain water from compressor blowdowns, leakage from turbines and penstocks, Grout gallery leakage, navigation lock leakage, housing leakage, packing boxes leakage, lower guide bearing and other bearing-related discharges, equipment and seal leakage, gate stems, turbine and scroll case access doors, tunnel pumpage, and water from ground water infiltration and surface water seepage. The station drainage system may include treatment units such as oil/water separators, oil flotation wells, or station sumps with some functioning as oil/water separators. These discharges can be intermittent and seasonal, and the outfalls in certain stations can be inaccessible for sampling purposes. Drainage sumps and dewatering sumps are the primary sources of potential oil and grease discharges in the hydroelectric facilities in the Lower Columbia River. At some facilities, cooling water discharges may enter into equipment and floor drains, resulting in a commingled discharge.

Equipment and Facility Maintenance-Related Water Discharges
The equipment and facility maintenance-related water discharges include river water pumped from the facility during periods of equipment, station, and facility maintenance. In the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric generating facilities, maintenance operations are generally continuous, and maintenance-related waters from unwatering sumps are discharged on a regular basis. During equipment maintenance operation, discharges occur from the dewatering of equipment containing river water such as the turbine, penstock, navigation locks, and dewatering sumps, which may contain residual oil and grease, detritus, or silt.

Equipment Using Lubricants
Various equipment in the hydroelectric generating facilities use equipment that are lubricated with grease. These include wicket gates, which control the amount of flow entering the scroll case to the turbine, and other equipment such as bearings, blocks, trucks and guides. Through the greasing process, water may enter into the river. Lubricated water rope may also come into contact with water during rainfall. The Kaplan runner is part of the turbine that extends into the draft tube. The runner contains oil and can release oil similar to a controlled pitch propeller in vessels.

C. Types of Pollutants Associated with Facilities

These proposed permits address wastewater discharged from outfalls (*i.e.,* discharges that result in an addition of pollutants to the Lower Columbia River). The permits do not address waters that flow over the spillway or pass through the turbines. *See National Wildlife Federation v. Consumers Power Company*, 862 F.2d 580 (6th Cir. 1988); *National Wildlife Federation v. Gorsuch,* 693 F.2d 156 (D.C. Cir. 1982). The pollutants associated with wastewaters from the above discharges are oil, grease, excess heat (temperature), pH, and debris and silt from the strainer's screens.

Most discharges that affect water quality are ancillary to the direct process of generating electricity at a hydroelectric generating facility and result mostly from oil spills, equipment leaks, and improper waste storage. These NPDES permits propose permit limits for oil and grease and pH and temperature monitoring for cooling water discharges. It also requires development and implementation of a Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan, Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EAL) Annual Report, and 316(b) Annual Report. The BMP Plan establishes practices and procedures to prevent, minimize or eliminate the discharge of oil and grease and an annual self-certification report demonstrating compliance with the BMP Plan.

EALs are biodegradable lubricants. For equipment that use non-EAL lubricants, have an oil-water interface, or have a high likelihood that lubricants would enter into water, the permit requires the use of EALs, unless technically infeasible. The permits also require an EAL Annual Report, which is an inventory of equipment that should be considered for EALs, a technical feasibility evaluation of the equipment, and annual updates of EAL implementation on equipment. (See IV.C.)

Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act seeks to minimize adverse effects from cooling water intake structures on fish. The permits require best technology available (BTA) to be used to ensure that these effects are minimized. The permit also requires a 316(b) Annual Report, a status report of the BTA and any studies and optimization related to the use and effectiveness of the BTA on fish mortality.

D. Type of Treatment

Gravity oil/water separator is a common treatment for equipment, sump, and floor drain related discharges at hydroelectric generating facilities. These oil/water separators use the force of gravity to separate the lower density oils as a layer on top of the oil/water interface and the heavier particulate matter (sludge) as a layer on the bottom of the oil/water separator. The design of oil/water separators is based on the following parameters: water flow rate, density of oil to be separated, desired oil removal capacity, and operating temperature range.

E. Outfall Description

Below are brief descriptions of outfalls that discharge in Washington waters for each facility. Each hydroelectric generating facility also has outfalls that discharge in Oregon waters, which are under the jurisdiction of ODEQ's NPDES permitting program. As previously stated, the permits the EPA is proposing to issue only cover the discharges to the Lower Columbia River on the Washington side of the state border.

Table 5. Bonneville Project Outfall Description

Outfall	Outfall Description	Type of Discharge	Maximum Daily Discharge
001	Fish Unit #2 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	1.2 MGD
002	Fish Unit #1 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	1.2 MGD
003	CAC2 – HVAC Chiller	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
004a	Main Unit 18 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
004b	Main Unit 18 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
005a	Main Unit 17 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
005b	Main Unit 17 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
006a	Main Unit 16 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
006b	Main Unit 16 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
007a	Main Unit 15 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
007b	Main Unit 15 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
008a	Main Unit 14 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
008b	Main Unit 14 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
009a	Main Unit 13 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
009b	Main Unit 13 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
010a	Main Unit 12 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
010b	Main Unit 12 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
011a	Main Unit 11 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	0.94 MGD
011b	Main Unit 11 Thrust bearing cooling water	Cooling water	1.0 MGD
012	Oil Water Separator	Equipment and floor drain discharges, maintenance-related discharges	0.86 MGD
013	CAC1 – HVAC Chiller	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
014	Unwatering Sump	Maintenance-related discharges, equipment and floor drain discharges, cooling water	10 MGD
015	Drainage Sump	Equipment and floor drain discharges, cooling water	4.3 MGD

Table 6. The Dalles Lock and Dam Outfall Description

Outfall	Outfall Description	Type of Discharge	Maximum Daily Value
001	Unwatering sump	Maintenance-related discharges, equipment and floor drain discharges, cooling water	9 MGD
002	Drainage sump	Equipment and floor drain discharges, maintenance-related discharges, cooling water	1.4 MGD
003	Main Units 1 and 2 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
004	Main Units 3 and 4 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
005	Main Units 5 and 6 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
006	Main Units 7 and 8 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
007	Main Units 9 and 10 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
008	Main Units 11 and 12 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
009	Main Units 13 and 14 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
010	Main Units 15 and 16 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
011	Main Units 17 and 18 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
012	Main Units 19 and 20 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
013	Main Units 21 and 22 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.4 MGD
014	Fish Units 1 and 2 Cooling water	Cooling water	0.44 MGD
015	South spillway sump	Equipment and floor drain discharges, maintenance-related discharges	0.036 MGD
016	North spillway sump	Equipment and floor drain discharges, maintenance-related discharges	0.0072 MGD
017	Navigation lock drainage sump	Equipment and floor drain discharges, maintenance-related discharges	0.00144 MGD
018	Transformer cooling water #1	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
019	Transformer cooling water #2	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
022	Transformer cooling water #5	Cooling water	1.9 MGD

023	Transformer cooling water #6	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
026	Transformer cooling water #9	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
027	Transformer cooling water #10	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
028	Transformer cooling water #11	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
029	Transformer cooling water #12	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
030	Transformer cooling water #13	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
031	Transformer cooling water #14	Cooling water	1.9 MGD
032	Station service 01 and 02 cooling water	Cooling water	0.21 MGD
033	Transformer T04 cooling water	Cooling water	0.17 MGD
034	Transformer T01 cooling water	Cooling water	0.17 MGD
035	Auxiliary water pump	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	

Table 7. John Day Project Outfall Description

Outfall	Outfall Description	Type of Discharge	Maximum Daily Discharge
018	Main Unit 15 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.2 MGD
019	Main Unit 16 Non-contact cooling water	Cooling water	2.2 GD
020	Unwatering sump pump 3	Maintenance-related discharges, equipment and floor drain discharges, cooling water	13 MGD
021	Unwatering sump pump 4	Maintenance-related discharges, equipment and floor drain discharges, cooling water	13 MGD
023	Central Non-Overflow (CNO) Pumps 9	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	3.6 MGD
024	Central Non-Overflow (CNO) Pumps 10	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	3.6 MGD
025	Central Non-Overflow (CNO) Pumps 11	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	3.6 MGD
026	Spillway drainage sump pumps 8, 8A	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	1.1 MGD
027	Navigation lock fill valve tainter 4 – pump for drainage of secondary containment	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	2.2 MGD
028	Navigation Lock Drainage Sump 3	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	4.3 MGD
029	Navigation Lock Pump 4	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	0.22 MGD
031	Powerhouse HVAC cooling water	Cooling water	0.17 MGD

Table 8. McNary Lock and Dam and Lock Outfall Description

Outfall	Outfall Description	Type of Discharge	Average Discharge Flow
021	Navigation Lock Upstream Sump	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	0.43 MGD
022	Navigation Lock Downstream Sump	Equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water	0.43 MGD

F. **Effluent Characterization**

To characterize the effluent, the EPA evaluated the facility's application form and additional data provided by ODEQ and the facilities. The table below summarizes information from the permit application. Data are limited, and in all but a few outfalls, there is one sample point per outfall. In the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and the John Day Project, USACE also conducted continuous hydrocarbon monitoring. All data are provided in Appendix D.

Table 9. Summary of Pollutants Detected in Outfalls

Bonneville Project	
Pollutant	**Concentration range**
Total suspended solids (TSS)	1.0 mg/L – 33 mg/L
Total organic carbon (TOC)	1.4 mg/L – 2.9 mg/L
Ammonia	0.29 mg/L
Temperature (summer)	15-24°C
pH	7.5 – 8.1 s.u.

The Dalles Lock and Dam	
Pollutant	**Concentration range**
Oil and grease	Believed present, but no measurements
Total suspended solids (TSS)	0.5 mg/L - 24 mg/L
Total organic carbon (TOC)	0.92 mg/L – 2.7 mg/L
Ammonia	0.32 mg/L
Chemical oxygen demand	Non-detect - 10 mg/L
Biochemical oxygen demand	3.1 mg/L
Temperature (winter)	11-17°C
pH	6.5 – 8.9 s.u.

John Day Project	
Pollutant	**Concentration range**
Total suspended solids (TSS)	1.2 mg/L – 5.9 mg/L
Total organic carbon (TOC)	1.1 mg/L – 2.6 mg/L
Ammonia	0.12 mg/L – 0.30 mg/L
Biochemical oxygen demand	5.5 mg/L
Temperature (summer)	17-24°C
pH	7.4 – 7.9 s.u.

McNary Lock and Dam	
Pollutant	**Concentration range**
Total suspended solids (TSS)	1.0 mg/L – 6.0 mg/L
Total organic carbon (TOC)	1.7 mg/L - 2.8 mg/L
Ammonia	0.07 mg/L
Chemical oxygen demand	< 5 mg/L – 7 mg/L
Biochemical oxygen demand	2.1 mg/L – 4.2 mg/L
Oil and grease	<1 mg/L – 1 mg/L
Temperature (summer)	19-20°C
pH	7.5 - 8.5 s.u.

G. Compliance History

The proposed permits are new so there are no past permit violations. However, the facilities are currently discharging without a permit. As previously explained, on August 4, 2014, the USACE and Columbia Riverkeeper reached a Settlement Agreement where, among other things, the USACE agreed to submit NPDES permit applications for outfalls with potential pollutant discharges for, among other facilities, the four facilities that discharge to the Lower Columbia River.

III. Receiving Water

In drafting permit conditions, the EPA must analyze the effect of the facility's discharge on the receiving water. The details of that analyses are provided in this Fact Sheet. This section summarizes characteristics of the receiving water that impact that analysis.

A. Receiving Water

These facilities discharge to the Lower Columbia River. The Bonneville Project discharges near river mile 146 of the Columbia River near the City of Cascade Locks, Oregon. The Dalles Lock and Dam discharges near river mile 191 of the Columbia River near the City of The Dalles, Oregon. The John Day Project discharges near river mile 216 of the Columbia River near the City of Rufus, Oregon. The McNary Lock and Dam discharges near river mile 293 of the Columbia River near the City of Umatilla, Oregon.

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. 40 CFR 122.4(d) requires that the conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the water quality standards of all affected States and Tribes. A State's or Tribe's water quality standards are composed of use classifications, numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria and an anti-degradation policy.

The use classification system designates the beneficial uses that each water body is expected to achieve, such as drinking water supply, contact recreation, and aquatic life. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are the criteria deemed necessary by the State to support the beneficial use classification of each water body. The anti-degradation policy represents a three-tiered approach to maintain and protect various levels of water quality and uses.

B. Designated Beneficial Uses

The facilities discharge to the Lower Columbia River from river mile zero (the mouth of the Columbia River with the Pacific Ocean) to river mile 293. At the points of discharge, the Lower Columbia River is protected for the following designated uses in Washington (WAC 173-201A-602, Table 602): spawning and rearing, primary contact, domestic water, industrial water, agricultural water, stock water, wildlife habitat, harvesting, commerce/navigation, and aesthetics. Although the permits regulate discharges from outfalls in Washington, they may also affect Oregon waters since the Lower Columbia River includes both Washington and Oregon waters. The Columbia River is protected for the following designated uses in Oregon (OAR 340-041-0101, Tables 101A and 101B): public domestic water supply, private domestic water supply, industrial water supply, irrigation, livestock watering, fish and aquatic life, salmon and steelhead migration, salmon and steelhead spawning through fry emergence (October 15-March 31), shad and sturgeon spawning and rearing, wildlife and hunting, fishing, boating, water contact recreation, aesthetic quality, hydropower, and commercial navigation and transportation. The EPA has established effluent limitations and other requirements in the permits to maintain the most stringent possible water quality criteria. In this manner, the permits will be protective of all possible receiving water uses in Washington and Oregon.

C. Surface Water Quality Criteria

The criteria are found in the following sections of the Washington Water Quality Standards and Oregon Water Quality Standards:

- The numeric and narrative criteria applicable to all fresh waters of the State are found in WAC 173-201A-200 (Fresh water designated uses and criteria) and WAC 173-201A-260 (Natural conditions and other water quality criteria and applications). Oregon's water quality standards for all waters of the State are found in OAR 340-041 (Water quality standards: Beneficial uses, policies, and criteria for Oregon).
- The numeric and narrative criteria for toxic substances for the protection of aquatic life and primary contact recreation are found at WAC 173-201A-240 and OAR 340-041-0033 (Toxic Substances).
- Water quality criteria for agricultural water supply can be found in the EPA's Water Quality Criteria 1972, also referred to as the "Blue Book" (EPA R3-73-033)
- Basin-specific water quality standards for the Columbia River are at OAR-340-041-0101, and OAR-340-041-0103, and OAR-340-041-0104.

The permits contain language for the following narrative criteria:

Toxic Substances. Toxic substances shall not be introduced above natural background levels in waters of the state which have the potential either singularly or cumulatively to adversely affect characteristic water uses, cause acute or chronic toxicity to the most sensitive biota dependent upon those waters, or adversely affect public health, as determined by the department (WAC 173-201A-240).

Toxic substances may not be introduced above natural background levels in waters of the state in amounts, concentrations, or combinations that may be harmful, may chemically change to harmful forms in the environment, or may accumulate in sediments or bioaccumulate in aquatic life or wildlife to levels that adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare or aquatic life, wildlife or other designated beneficial uses (OAR 340-041-0033(1)).

Deleterious, floating, suspended, submerged matter, aesthetics, visible oil sheen. Toxic, radioactive, or deleterious material concentrations must be below those which have the potential, either singularly or cumulatively, to adversely affect characteristic water uses, cause acute or chronic conditions to the most sensitive biota dependent upon those waters, or adversely affect public health (WAC 173-201A-260(2)(a)).

Aesthetic values must not be impaired by the presence of materials of their effects, excluding those of natural origin, which offend the senses of sight, smell, touch, or taste (WAC 173-201A-260-2(b)).

The creation of tastes or odors or toxic or other conditions that are deleterious to fish or other aquatic life or affect the potability of drinking water or palatability of fish or shellfish may not be allowed (OAR 340-041-0033(11)).

Objectionable discoloration, scum, oily sheens, or floating solids, or coating of aquatic life with oil films may not be allowed (OAR 340-041-0033(12)).

D. Impaired Waters/TMDLs

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify specific water bodies where water quality standards are not expected to be met after implementation of technology-based effluent limitations by point sources. For all 303(d)-listed water bodies and pollutants, states must develop and adopt total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that will specify wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point sources and load allocations (LAs) for non-point sources, as appropriate. WLAs for point sources are implemented through limitations incorporated into NPDES permits that are consistent with the

assumptions of the WLAs in the TMDL (40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B)).

Dioxins

In 1991, Ecology and ODEQ issued a TMDL for dioxins in the Columbia River. The TMDL identified the major sources of dioxin as pulp mills that were operating during the development of the TMDL. Dioxins are usually a result of chemical processes at high temperatures. Since no chemical processes at high temperatures occur at the hydroelectric generating facilities, dioxins are not expected to be present in the discharges from the facilities. In addition, the EPA has taken a conservative approach and has included Part I.B.2 of the permits, which prohibits the discharge of toxic substances in concentrations that impair beneficial uses.

Total Dissolved Gas

In 2002, Ecology and ODEQ issued a TMDL for total dissolved gas in the Lower Columbia River. Elevated total dissolved gas is caused by spill events, when quickly flowing water entrains total dissolved gas at high levels. In the case of hydroelectric generating facilities, these spill events are "pass through" water, which are not regulated by NPDES permits (*See National Wildlife Federation v. Consumers Power Company*, 862 F.2d 580 (6th Cir. 1988); *National Wildlife Federation v. Gorsuch,* 693 F.2d 156 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Total dissolved gas is not a pollutant found in the discharges covered under the permits. Therefore, total dissolved gas is not a pollutant of concern for the discharges authorized by these permits.

PCBs

The Columbia River is listed as impaired for PCBs on Ecology's CWA Section 303(d) list. PCBs may be present in turbine fluid, lubricants, paint, and caulk though exact sources of PCBs are unknown at the hydroelectric generating facilities. Therefore, the EPA has taken a conservative approach and included provisions in the permit that prohibit the discharge of PCBs and the discharge of toxic substances in concentrations that impair the beneficial uses of the receiving water (see Part I.B.2). The permits also require the hydroelectric projects to use lubricants, paint and caulk that do not contain PCBs, unless technically infeasible.

Temperature

The Columbia River is listed as impaired for temperature on Ecology's CWA Section 303(d) list. The EPA is conducting studies on temperature in the Columbia River and working to develop a temperature TMDL. Cooling water discharges from the hydroelectric generating facilities may affect temperature. However, the effects may be small, since these discharges combine with water passed over spillways. The water over spillways tends to have a much larger effect because the amount of water is much greater, and the temperatures behind reservoirs can rise much higher when air temperatures are high. The Biological Evaluation for the draft Idaho Hydroelectric Facility General Permit issued by the EPA in 2018 analyzed the potential temperature impacts from cooling water using information from the Oxbow and Hells Canyon hydroelectric generating facilities. The study found a maximum temperature increase of 0.02°C with 25% mixing, and 0.004°C with 100% mixing. Thus, the temperature increase is predicted to be low. The hydroelectric generating facilities have limited temperature data on their cooling water discharges, in most cases, one sample per outfall. Therefore, the permits require continuous temperature monitoring for cooling water discharges and monthly temperature monitoring where a similar cooling water discharge requires continuous temperature monitoring. Information from these permits will inform the TMDL studies and the next permit cycle.

IV. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

The tables below show the effluent limits for each facility:

Table 10. Bonneville Project Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring
Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 001, 002, 003, 004a, 004b, 005a, 005b, 006a, 006b, 007a, 007b, 008a, 008b, 009a, 009b, 010a, 010b, 011a, 011b, and 013: Fish Units Non-Contact Cooling Water, Main Turbine Units Non-Contact Cooling Water, Main Turbine Units Thrust Bearing Water and HVAC Chillers

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C[1]	Report	See Paragraph I.B.10.	Continuous or 1/month[2]	Measurement/Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
1. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
2. See Paragraphs I.B.10 and I.B.11.

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 014 and 015: Unwatering Sump and Drainage Sump

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C[1]	Report	Effluent	Continuous [2]	Measurement/ Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
3. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
4. See Paragraphs I.B.11.

Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 012: Oil Water Separator

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Table 11. The Dalles Lock and Dam Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 001, 002 and 032: Unwatering Sump, Drainage Sump, Station Service Non-Contact Cooling Water

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C [1]	Report	Effluent	Continuous[2]	Measurement/Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
1. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
2. See Paragraph I.B.11.

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 018, 019, 022, 023, 026, 027, 028, 029, 030, 031, 033 and 034: Main Units Non-Contact Cooling Water, Transformer Non-Contact Cooling Water, Station Service Non-Contact Cooling Water, and Fish Unit Non-Contact Cooling Water

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C[1]	Report	See Paragraph I.B.10 of this permit.	Continuous or 1/month [2]	Measurement/ Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
1. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
2. See Paragraphs I.B.10 and I.B.11.

Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 015, 016, 017 and 035: Auxiliary Water Supply Valve Pit, South Spillway Sump, North Spillway Sump, Navigation Lock Drainage Sumps

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Table 12. John Day Project Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 018, 019, and 43: Main Units 15 and 16 Non-Contact Cooling Water, Powerhouse HVAC Cooling Water

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C[1]	Report	See Paragraph I.B.10 of this permit.	Continuous or 1/month[2]	Measurement/ Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
1. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
2. See Paragraphs I.B.11.

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 020 and 021: Unwatering Sumps for Pumps 3 and 4

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Temperature	7DADM°C[1]	Report	Effluent	Continuous[2]	Measurement/ Calculation
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Notes
3. 7-day average daily maximum. This is a rolling 7-day average calculated by taking the average of the daily maximum temperatures.
4. See Paragraph I.B.11.

Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 023, 024, 025, 026, 027, 028, and 029: Central Non-Overflow Pumps Water, Spillway Drainage Sump Navigation Lock Drainage Water

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

Table 13. McNary Lock and Dam Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 021 and 022: Navigation Lock Sumps

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	Monitoring Requirements		
			Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Parameters With Effluent Limits					
pH	std units	Between 6.5 – 8.5	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Oil and grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Effluent	1/month	Grab
Report Parameters					
Flow	mgd	Report	Effluent	1/month	Measurement
Visible Oil Sheen, Floating, Suspended, or Submerged Matter	--	See Paragraph I.B.4 of this permit.			Visual Observation

A. **Statutory Requirements for Determining Effluent Limitations**

Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 USC § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States unless the discharge is authorized pursuant to an NPDES permit. Section 402 of the CWA, 33 USC § 1342, authorizes the EPA, or an approved state NPDES program, to issue NPDES permits that authorize discharges subject to limitations and requirements imposed pursuant to CWA Sections 301, 304, 306, 401 and 403, 33 USC §§ 1311, 1314, 1316, 1341 and 1343. Accordingly, NPDES permits typically include effluent limits and requirements that require the permittee to (1) meet national standards that reflect levels of currently available treatment technologies; (2) comply with the EPA-approved state water quality standards in state waters; and (3) prevent unreasonable degradation of the surface water quality.

In general, the CWA requires that the effluent limits for a particular pollutant be the more stringent of either technology-based effluent limits or water quality-based effluent limits. Technology-based limits are set according to the level of treatment that is achievable using available technology. A water quality-based effluent limit is designed to ensure that the water quality standards applicable to a waterbody are being met and may be more stringent than technology-based effluent limits.

The EPA first determines which technology-based effluent limits apply to a discharge in accordance with applicable national effluent limitation guidelines and standards (ELGs). Where ELGs have not been promulgated for a specific category of discharge, case-by-case technology-based effluent limits based on best professional judgment (BPJ) are developed. The EPA further determines which water quality-based effluent limits apply to a discharge based upon an assessment of the pollutants discharged and a review of state water quality standards. Monitoring requirements must also be included in the permit to determine compliance with effluent limitations. Effluent and ambient monitoring may also be required to gather data for future effluent limitations or to monitor effluent impacts on receiving water quality.

B. **Pollutants of Concern**

Pollutants of concern are those that either have technology-based effluent limits or may need water quality-based limits. The EPA identifies pollutants of concern for the discharge based on those which:

- Have a technology-based limit

- Have an assigned WLA from a TMDL
- Had an effluent limit in the previous permit
- Are present in the effluent monitoring. Monitoring data are reported in the application and DMR and any special studies
- Are expected to be in the discharge based on the nature of the discharge

A review of the discharges of hydroelectric generating facilities permitted by other states and information gathered from the permit applications, facilities, and other sources reveal that the pollutants of concern are as follows:

- pH
- oxygen demanding pollutants (BOD and COD)
- oil and grease
- temperature
- total suspended solids (TSS)

C. Technology-based Effluent Limitations

Section 301(b) of the CWA, 33 USC § 1311(b), requires technology-based controls on effluents. All NPDES permits must contain effluent limitations which: (a) control toxic pollutants and nonconventional pollutants through the use of "best available technology economically achievable" (BAT), and (b) control conventional pollutants through the use of "best conventional pollutant control technology" (BCT). In no case may BAT or BCT be less stringent than the "best practical control technology currently achievable" (BPT), which is the minimum level of control required by Section 301(b)(1)(A) of the CWA, 33 USC § 1311(b)(1)(A).

ELGs have not yet been developed by the EPA for hydroelectric generating facility discharges.

D. Water Quality-based Effluent Limitations

Statutory and Regulatory Basis

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the CWA, 33 USC § 1311(b)(1)(C), requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. Discharges to State or Tribal waters must also comply with limitations imposed by the State or Tribe as part of its certification of NPDES permits under section 401 of the CWA, 33 USC §1341. 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1) requires that permits include limits for all pollutants or parameters which are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State or Tribal water quality standard, including narrative criteria for water quality. Effluent limits must also meet the applicable water quality requirements of affected States other than the State in which the discharge originates, which may include downstream States (40 CFR 122.4(d), 122.44(d)(4), see also CWA Section 401(a)(2)).

The regulations require the permitting authority to make this evaluation using procedures which account for existing controls on point and nonpoint sources of pollution, the variability of the pollutant in the effluent, species sensitivity (for toxicity), and where appropriate, dilution in the receiving water. The limits must be stringent enough to ensure that water quality standards are met, and must be consistent with any available WLA for the discharge in an approved TMDL. If there are no approved TMDLs that specify WLAs for this discharge, all of the water quality-based effluent limits are calculated directly from the applicable water quality standards.

Reasonable Potential Analysis and Need for Water Quality-Based Effluent Limits

The EPA uses the process described in the *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control* (*TSD*) to determine reasonable potential. To determine if there is reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality criteria for a given pollutant, the EPA compares the maximum projected receiving water concentration to the water quality criteria for that pollutant. If the projected receiving water concentration exceeds the criteria, there is reasonable potential, and a water quality-based effluent limit must be included in the permit.

In some cases, a dilution allowance or mixing zone is permitted. A mixing zone is a limited area or volume of water where initial dilution of a discharge takes place and within which certain water quality criteria may be exceeded (EPA, 2014). While the criteria may be exceeded within the mixing zone, the use and size of the mixing zone must be limited such that the waterbody as a whole will not be impaired, all designated uses are maintained and acutely toxic conditions are prevented.

The Washington Water Quality Standards at WAC 173-201A-400 provides Washington's mixing zone policy for point source discharges. These permits do not authorize a mixing zone.

pH

The effluent limitation for Hydrogen Ion (pH) proposed in the draft permits for cooling water, sumps, drainage, and dewatering discharges are established to meet the State of Washington and Oregon's water quality standards for the protection of aquatic life. The water quality criterion for pH is found in WAC 173-201A-200 1(g) and states that for salmonid spawning, rearing and migration, pH shall be within the range of 6.5 to 8.5 with a human-caused variation within the above range of less than 0.5 units. The site-specific pH criteria for the mainstem Columbia River in Oregon is 7 to 8.5 (OAR-340-041-0104(1)).

Effluent pH data were compared to the water quality criteria. There were no pH values outside the 6.5 to 8.5 range at the Bonneville Project, John Day Project, and McNary Lock and Dam.

The Dalles Lock and Dam had pH values above 8.5 with a maximum of 8.9 in outfalls 18 to 31. These outfalls are associated with transformer cooling water. USACE communicated to the EPA by email on August 28, 2018, that outfalls 20, 21, 24, and 25 have been disconnected and that the remaining outfalls are scheduled to be disconnected within the next 5 years when the operations change to air cooling transformer units. Once all the outfalls are disconnected, there will be no discharges from these units.

The permits propose pH limits not less than 6.5 and not more than 8.5 standard units to ensure that surface waters do not exceed this range from discharges from the hydroelectric generating facilities. This limit meets Washington and Oregon pH water quality criteria.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)

BOD and COD are measures of the amount of degradable material that may deplete oxygen. The Washington water quality standard for dissolved oxygen for salmon spawning, rearing and migration is 8.0 mg/L (WAC 173-201A-200 1(d)) and 11.0 mg/L for spawning through fry emergence (OAR 340-041-0016(1)(a)). There are no water quality standards in Washington for BOD or COD. Oil and grease are oxygen-demanding substances. Sumps may also concentrate oxygen-demanding substances that may be present in pass through water. Therefore, BOD and COD could be present in sump discharges, and to a lesser degree, dewatering and cooling water discharges. BOD and COD is also present in influent water, so may be part of the pass through and leakage water. The permit does not address the pass through water. (See II.C.)

BOD and COD concentrations at the four facilities were relatively low, if detected. The Bonneville Project had no detections of BOD and COD. The Dalles Lock and Dam had one BOD detection of 3.1 mg/L and three detections of COD at 10 mg/L. The John Day Project had one detection of BOD of 5.5 mg/L and no detections of COD. The McNary Lock and Dam had two detections of BOD concentration ranging from 2.1-4.2 mg/L and two detections of COD at <5-7 mg/L.

The EPA has determined there is no reasonable potential for oxygen-demanding substances in the hydroelectric generating facilities' discharges to impact dissolved oxygen in the Lower Columbia River. Concentrations of BOD and COD are relatively low, and operations from the hydroelectric facilities are not expected to add significant amounts of oxygen-demanding substances that would require permit effluent limitations. The Columbia River receiving water has significantly higher flows compared to discharges from outfalls. In addition, the facilities generate oxygen over their spillways and tailrace, which then combines with discharge waters. Oxygen-demanding substances from the operations may arise from oil and grease, for which the permit has effluent limitations, monitoring, tracking, and minimization requirements. The permit also requires total suspended solids or detritus, to be minimized. As a result, the EPA has determined there is no reasonable potential and is not proposing limits or monitoring for oxygen-demanding substances.

Oil and Grease

The oil and grease limits are derived from the narrative water quality criteria in the state water quality standards, which states that "toxic, radioactive or deleterious material concentrations must be below those which have the potential either singularly or cumulatively, to adversely affect characteristic water uses, cause acute or chronic conditions to the most sensitive biota dependent on the waters, or adversely affect public health (WAC 173-201A-260-2(a));" "Aesthetic values must not be impaired by the presence of materials of their effects, excluding those of natural origin, which offend the senses of sight, smell, touch, or taste (WAC 173-201A-260-2(b);" and "Objectionable discoloration, scum, oily sheens, or floating solids, or coating of aquatic life with oil films may not be allowed (OAR 340-041-0033(12))."

The EPA interprets these narrative criteria as prohibiting a discharge to these waters that would cause an oil sheen. Although effluent concentrations are low for oil and grease, these are the primary pollutants introduced by facility operations and could be present in discharges from sumps, dewatering, and cooling water. The EPA has established daily maximum oil and grease limitations of 5 mg/L to represent the concentration at which there is an oil sheen on surface waters. This limit is consistent with several NPDES permits issued in Washington at shipyards[2] where a 5 mg/L was established to control for no visible oil sheen. This concentration was based on best professional judgment and on the detection limit for oil and grease, which is 5 mg/L. A daily maximum effluent limit of 5 mg/L will ensure the narrative water quality standards for deleterious, aesthetic, and no visible oil sheen are met. The EPA believes that this limit is a reasonable standard for facilities that have a reasonable potential for oil and grease discharges.

In addition, the permit requires the permittee to develop and implement a BMP Plan, which includes tracking and accountability of oil use in the facility, minimization of any oil spills, proper operation and maintenance of all equipment that may release oil, and identification of and contingency planning for site-specific vulnerabilities for oil spills such as lack of secondary containment. For

[2] Barnacle Point Shipyards WA-003099-6, Dakota Creek Industries WA-003141-1, Vigor Shipyards, Incorporated WA-000261-5, Everett Shipyard, Piers 1, 3 and Adjacent Areas WA-003200-0.

lubricants such as oil and grease, the permit requires the use of EALs to replace oil and grease, unless technically infeasible, to reduce the potential of oil and grease entering the river and an EAL Annual Report tracking implementation progress.

Toxics

Washington and Oregon have narrative criteria in their water quality standards at WAC 173-201A-240 and OAR 340-041-0033(1) that prohibit toxic discharges in concentrations that impair designated beneficial uses. Noncontact cooling water discharges do not contain or come into contact with raw materials, intermediate products, finished products, or process wastes. There is no information on whether discharges from the hydroelectric projects contain toxic or hazardous pollutants other than oil and grease.

To ensure that discharges do not occur, the permits establish narrative effluent limitations for toxic pollutants in Part I.B.2 of the permit. The permits do not allow for the addition of toxic materials or chemicals and prohibit the discharge of PCBs. They also require the use of paints, caulk, and lubricants free of PCBs, unless technically infeasible. Further, additives used to control biological growth in such cooling systems are prohibited due to their inherent toxicity to aquatic life.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

The Washington water quality standards have narrative criteria that apply to TSS: "Toxic, radioactive, or deleterious material concentrations must be below those which have potential, either singularly or cumulatively, to adversely affect characteristic water uses, cause acute or chronic conditions to the most sensitive biota dependent upon those water, or adversely affect public health (WAC 173-201A-260)." Oregon water quality standards have guide concentrations for total dissolved solids of 500 mg/L (OAR 340-041-0104(2)) and narrative criteria that apply to TSS: "Objectionable discoloration, scum, oily sheens, or floating solids, or coating of aquatic life with oil films may not be allowed (OAR 340-041-0033(12))."

Suspended solids in water can cause turbidity and interfere with salmonid migration and growth. In the hydroelectric generating facilities, water originates from the upstream river which may contain solids that pass through the operation. TSS is most likely present in sumps and floor drains, where they may accumulate. Cooling water intakes have strainers which help to remove most sediment. Backwash strainers on cooling water intakes at the Bonneville Project and The Dalles Lock and Dam could concentrate sediment in backwash discharges.

TSS levels at the Bonneville Project ranged from 1-33 mg/L; 0.5 mg/L – 24 mg/L at The Dalles Lock and Dam; 1.2 mg/L – 5.9 mg/L at the John Day Project; and 1.0-6.0 mg/L at the McNary Lock and Dam. TSS was detected in 19 outfalls at the Bonneville Project. Of the 19 detections, 15 of the samples ranged from 1-5.9 mg/L. The other 4 samples were in cooling water discharges and were 10 mg/L, 13 mg/L, 13 mg/L, and 33 mg/L respectively. TSS was detected 27 times at the Dalles Lock and Dam. Of the 27 detections, 25 ranged from 1-8 mg/L. The remaining two samples were in cooling water and were 10 mg/L and 24 mg/L.

There is no known source of TSS that would be added or accumulated in this cooling water discharge, except for the backwash strainers, both of which are used at the Bonneville Project and The Dalles Lock and Dam where TSS concentrations were higher. However, Outfall 002 at the Bonneville Project, which had a TSS concentration of 33 mg/L does not operate with a backwash strainer. There is no source of TSS. Therefore, it is unclear if this was an accurate sample.

The BMP Plan requires inspection and maintenance procedures with recordkeeping for the backwash strainer because proper operation of the backwash strainer is necessary to maintain low TSS concentrations in the discharge. The BMP Plan further requires facilities to clean intake screens and racks to reduce sediment that may enter the project. The EPA has determined that TSS limits and monitoring are not needed for TSS because of relatively low levels of TSS and because of permit requirements that will minimize sediment intake from influent and that require proper maintenance of backwash strainers to maintain low TSS.

Temperature

The Washington water quality standards for temperature for salmonid spawning, rearing, and migration is 20.0°C for the Lower Columbia River. See WAC 183-201A-602. Oregon's water quality standards for temperature for salmonid migration corridors is 20°C with sufficiently distributed cold water refugia (OAR 340-041-0028). Cooling water receives heat from equipment that is being cooled, and through this exchange, heat is added to cooling water from hydroelectric generating facilities. Heat from cooling water may also be present in drainage sumps that receive cooling water, though temperature effects are likely to be minimal given the amount of cooling water compared to drainage water.

Temperatures ranged from 15-24°C at the Bonneville Project, 11-17°C at The Dalles Lock and Dam (winter temperatures only), 17-24°C at the John Day Project, and 19-20°C at McNary Lock and Dam. Influent temperatures for the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric generating facilities ranged from 9°C (The Dalles Lock and Dam winter temperature) to 23°C.

As previously explained, the Columbia River is impaired for temperature, and the EPA is conducting studies to develop a temperature TMDL. Temperature data are limited for cooling water discharges. However, in hydroelectric generating facilities, the pass through water in spills over the dam are generally a much higher volume and may have much warmer temperatures during hot periods, which have the greatest effect on temperatures. The pass through water, however, does not require an NPDES permit. As a result, the EPA is proposing a continuous monitoring requirement for any discharges with cooling water and monthly monitoring where a similar discharge already has continuous monitoring. The EPA is also proposing continuous influent monitoring on cooling water for main units and large transformer units with continuous effluent monitoring. This requirement is to assess the heat that may be added to cooling water with greater than 1 MGD design flows. These temperature monitoring requirements will apply at the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and the John Day Project. There are no cooling water discharges at the McNary Lock and Dam. The EPA believes this additional information is necessary to inform the next permit renewal cycle on whether temperature limits should be included.

Table 14. Proposed Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limits	Designated Use in Washington WQS Linked to Specific Water Quality Criteria Used as Basis for Limits
pH	standard units	Not less than 6.5 or greater than 8.5 standard units (s.u.)	Aquatic Life
Oil and Grease	mg/L	5 (daily maximum)	Aquatic Life

E. **Minimum Levels**

All water samples must be analyzed using EPA approved analytical methods, and must be analyzed using a sufficiently sensitive method that will detect the concentration of the parameter if it is present.

Table 15. Minimum Levels Applicable in the Lower Columbia River Hydroelectric Projects

Parameter	ML/Interim ML
pH	N/A
Temperature	0.2°C
Oil and Grease	5 mg/L

F. **Anti-degradation and Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification**

The WQS contain an anti-degradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Washington (WAC 173-201A-300).

Tier 1 Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing and designated uses of a water body must be maintained and protected (WAC 173-201A-310).

Tier 2 Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (WAC 173-201A-320).

Tier 3 Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters (ORWs) and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (WAC 173-201A-330).

The EPA is required under Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and implementing regulations (40CFR 122.4(d) and 122.44(d)) to establish conditions in NPDES permits that ensure compliance with state and tribal water quality standards. A facility must meet Tier I requirements to ensure that all existing and designated uses are maintained and protected. No degradation may be allowed that would interfere with, or become injurious to, existing or designated uses, except as provided for in Chapter 173-201A WAC.

The effluent limits in the proposed draft permit contain limits for oil and grease and pH. The draft permit also prohibits discharges of toxic substances, including PCBs, in toxic amounts that may cause or contribute to an impairment of designated uses in violation of the State of Washington water quality standards. The draft permit requires additional monitoring for flow and temperature in the effluent.

The effluent limitations and monitoring requirements contained in the draft permit ensure compliance with the narrative and numeric criteria in the water quality standards. Therefore, it was determined that the permit will protect and maintain existing and designated beneficial uses in compliance with the Tier I provisions for all pollutants.

Insert language after receiving WA 401 cert. Potential language below.

[The EPA has reviewed Washington's anti-degradation analysis in the 401 certification and finds that it is consistent with the State's anti-degradation implementation procedures. Comments on the

401 certification, including the anti-degradation analysis, can be submitted to the Washington Department of Ecology as set forth above (see the State Certification Section at the beginning of this document). See Appendix A for the State's draft 401 water quality certification.]

G. Anti-backsliding

Section 402(o)(2) of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations at 40 CFR 122.44 (l) generally prohibit the renewal, reissuance or modification of an existing NPDES permit that contains effluent limits, permit conditions or standards that are less stringent than those established in the previous permit (i.e., anti-backsliding) but provides limited exceptions. These are new permits, therefore, backsliding is not an issue.

V. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

A. Basis for Effluent and Surface Water Monitoring

Section 308 of the CWA, 33 USC § 1318, and 40 CFR 122.44(i) require monitoring in permits to determine compliance with effluent limitations. Monitoring may also be required to gather effluent and surface water data to determine if additional effluent limitations are required and/or to monitor effluent impacts on receiving water quality.

The permittee is responsible for conducting the monitoring and for reporting results on DMRs or on the application for renewal, as appropriate, to the EPA. The permittee must analyze water samples using sufficiently sensitive EPA-approved analytical methods.

B. Monitoring Locations

Discharges authorized by this permit must be monitored at each outfall identified in the permit. All facilities are required to monitor for applicable parameters and pollutants at the last point in the treatment train before the treated effluent leaves the facility for compliance with the permit limitations described in Section IV of this fact sheet.

C. Monitoring Frequencies

Monitoring frequencies are based on the nature and effect of the pollutant, as well as a determination of the minimum sampling necessary to adequately monitor the facility's performance. The permittee has the option of taking more frequent samples than are required under the permit. These samples must be used for averaging if they are conducted using the EPA-approved test methods (generally found in 40 CFR 136) or as specified in the permit.

The measurement frequency is established for flow, oil and grease, and pH at once per month for discharges of equipment and floor drain water, and discharges that are a combination of equipment and floor drain water, maintenance-related water, equipment-related backwash strainer water, and maintenance-related water during flood/high water events. This frequency for these discharges is to provide representative data on the monthly variability of each parameter.

The monitoring frequency for temperature for cooling water influent and effluent is hourly using a continuous monitoring probe or once per month for discharges that are similar to other discharges with continuous monitoring. For example, a subset of cooling water discharges from main units require continuous temperature monitoring, while the remaining discharges require a monthly grab sample for temperature. The EPA has determined this to be appropriate way for representative samples for temperature to be collected where the influent and operations are the same. Where wastestreams are different, the permits require continuous temperature monitoring. Continuous monitoring captures variability of water temperature.

D. Submission of Discharge Monitoring Reports

The draft permit requires that the permittee submit DMR data electronically using NetDMR. NetDMR is a national web-based tool that allows DMR data to be submitted electronically via a secure Internet application.

The EPA currently conducts free training on the use of NetDMR. Further information about NetDMR, including upcoming trainings and contacts, is provided on the following website: https://netdmr.epa.gov. The permittee may use NetDMR after requesting and receiving permission from EPA Region 10.

VI. Special Conditions

A. Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)

40 CFR 122.41(e) requires the permittee to develop a QAP to ensure that the monitoring data submitted are accurate and to explain data anomalies if they occur. The draft permits propose that hydroelectric generating facilities complete and implement a QAP within 180 days of their authorization to discharge from the EPA.

The permittee is required to follow specific sampling procedures [i.e., the EPA approved quality assurance, quality control, and chain-of-custody procedures described in Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/R-5)]; and Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/G-5) throughout all sample collection and analysis activities in order to ensure that quality data are collected.

The QAP must consist of standard operating procedures that the permittee must follow for collecting, handling, storing and shipping samples, laboratory analysis, and data reporting. It must be available on-site for inspection at the request of the EPA.

40 CFR §122.41(e) requires the permittee to properly operate and maintain their facilities, including "adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures." In order to implement this requirement, the draft permits require that the permittee develop or update a QAP that ensures that the monitoring data submitted to the EPA is complete, accurate, and representative of the environmental or effluent conditions.

B. Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan

Pursuant to Section 402(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, development and implementation of a BMP Plan may be included as a condition in NPDES permits. Section 402(a)(1) authorizes the EPA to include miscellaneous requirements in permits on a case-by-case basis, which are deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. BMPs, in addition to effluent limitations, are required to control or abate the discharge of pollutants in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(k). The BMP Plan requirement has also been incorporated into the permits in accordance with EPA BMP guidance (EPA, 1993).

The permits require the development and implementation of a site-specific BMP Plan, which prevents or minimizes the generation and potential release of pollutants from the facility to the waters of the United States through BMPs. This includes, but is not limited to, oil accountability tracking; site-specific measures to prevent the escape of grease and heavy oils used for lubrication and hydraulics; identification of site-specific vulnerabilities, ways to address these vulnerabilities, and contingency planning for potential oil releases from these vulnerabilities; and measures to reduce the need for lubricants for all facility equipment that come in contact with river water.

The BMP Plan shall identify potential sources of pollution which may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of discharges associated with day-to-day work activity at the facility from equipment and floor drain-related water, maintenance-related water (collectively referred to as the "internal facility drainage water"), and any other facility-related water. The BMP Plan shall describe and ensure the implementation of practices which are to be used to eliminate or reduce the pollutants in internal facility drainage water discharges and facility-related water associated with operations at the facility and to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. The BMP Plan should incorporate elements of pollution prevention as set forth in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 13101).

The permittee must develop a BMP Plan within 180 days of the effective date of the permits and certify to the EPA and Ecology in writing, the development and implementation of the BMP Plan. The certification must be signed in accordance with the Signatory Requirements in the permits. The permit also requires a BMP Annual Review that describes the implementation of the BMP Plan. The Annual Review must also be certified and signed in accordance with the Signatory Requirements. The BMP Plan must be amended whenever there is a change in the facility or in the operation of the facility which materially increases the potential for an increased discharge of pollutants.

C. **Use of EALs**

Pursuant to Section 402(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, development and implementation of an EAL Annual Report may be included as a condition in NPDES permits. Section 402(a)(1) authorizes the EPA to include miscellaneous requirements in permits on a case-by-case basis, which are deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. EALs, in addition to effluent limitations, are required to control or abate the discharge of pollutants in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(k).

The permits require the use of EALs for all equipment with oil to water grease interfaces, unless technically infeasible. The permits define technically infeasible for EALs as follows: no EAL products are approved for use in a given application that meet manufacturer specifications for that equipment; products which come pre-lubricated (e.g., wire ropes) and have no available alternatives manufactured with EALs; or products meeting a manufacturer's specifications are not available. The permittee must also develop an EAL Annual Report, which will require an evaluation of equipment that are candidates for EAL use, whether EALs are technically feasible, and a timeline for which EALs will be implemented. It also requires the report to be updated annually.

Wicket gates, in-line equipment, lubricated wire ropes, and Kaplan runners all use lubricants which may come into contact with water. This may result in release of lubricants into water. Currently, oil and grease are the primary lubricants used for equipment. However, EALs are an alternative lubricant that are biodegradable and less harmful to aquatic life species. EALs also offer a reasonable alternative to longer-term, but costly solutions such as oilless turbines. EALs prevent or minimize the generation and potential release of pollutants from the facility to the waters of the United States.

The USACE has completed several reports evaluating EALs, comparing cost and feasibility with oil and grease lubricants, or mineral oils. An August 2015 study conducted by the USACE by Medina found that while EALs may be more costly in the short-term compared to mineral oils, EALs may last longer and need to be applied less. In addition, some EALs may be more effective than conventional mineral oil-based lubricants. Therefore, EALs in the long-term may be more cost effective. However, there are still some cases where EALs or other equivalent alternatives may be technically infeasible or are unknown. The information from the EAL Annual Report will help to inform the next permit cycle on the feasibility of using EALs to address potential releases from oil and grease lubricants.

D. Cooling Water Intake Structure (CWIS)

Section 316(b) of the CWA, 33 USC § 1316(b), requires that facilities with CWIS ensure that the location, design, construction, and capacity of the structure reflect the best technology available (BTA) to minimize adverse impacts on the environment. The rule establishes BTA standards to reduce impingement and entrainment of aquatic organisms at existing power generating and manufacturing facilities. Impingement occurs when fish or shellfish become entrapped on the outer part of intake screens and entrainment occurs when fish or shellfish pass through the screens and into the cooling water system.

On August 15, 2014, the EPA promulgated regulations (40 CFR 125.90) to implement CWA Section 316(b) at existing facilities with CWIS with a design intake flow greater than 2 MGD and that use at least 25% of the withdrawn water for cooling purposes. These regulations establish requirements for minimizing adverse environmental impacts associated with CWIS and procedures, including permit application requirements, for establishing the appropriate technology requirements. Together these requirements represent BTA for minimizing adverse environmental impacts associated with the use of CWIS. If a facility with a CWIS falls below the thresholds set forth in 40 CFR 125.90, then BTA is established on a case-by-case basis using best professional judgment.

McNary Lock and Dam has no cooling water discharges in Washington, so CWA Section 316(b) provisions do not apply. For the remaining projects, the total amount of cooling water taken in is more than 2 MGD and more than 25% of the withdrawn water is used for cooling purposes. The cooling water intakes for the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric facilities are the points where water is diverted for cooling water purposes. For example, where cooling water is drawn off the scroll case, the intake is the point where the water is diverted from the scroll case. The cooling water intake is *not* the gravity intake where water from the river is taken in for hydroelectric purposes. That intake is for pass-through water for hydroelectric purposes, which do not require an NPDES permit (*See National Wildlife Federation v. Consumers Power Company*, 862 F.2d 580 (6th Cir. 1988); *National Wildlife Federation v. Gorsuch,* 693 F.2d 156 (D.C. Cir. 1982). However, at the point that water is diverted for cooling water and pollutants are added, such as heat, those waters require NPDES permits.

To evaluate the 2 MGD threshold for design intake flows, the EPA used the amount of cooling water discharged as a proxy for the amount of cooling water taken in. Table 16 provides the total amount of cooling water discharged if every unit were operating at its maximum flow rate and all of the discharge was cooling water. While the projects are unlikely to discharge these high volumes at all times, the EPA assessed discharge flows that could occur to determine whether the 2 MGD threshold was met. The EPA did not include cooling water which might be present in drainage sumps and unwatering sumps, since this is likely to be small compared to leakage water. Each facility exceeded the 2 MGD threshold.

The EPA then assessed whether the 25% threshold was met for water withdrawn for cooling water purposes. In the case of most cooling water inputs in these facilities, the intake is at the point that water is extracted for cooling water from the scroll case or from where water is used for hydroelectric generating purposes. Thus, the point where water is extracted for cooling is nearly always 100%. Therefore, both thresholds are met. Table 16 summarizes the results.

Table 16. Summary of Maximum Daily Average Cooling Water Discharges from Lower Columbia River Hydroelectric Projects

	Bonneville Project	The Dalles Lock and Dam	John Day Project	McNary Lock and Dam
Cooling Water Discharges (MGD)	22 MGD	53 MGD	4.5 MGD	NA
Greater than 25% Water Used for Cooling Water	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA

Since the 2014 Rule applies to the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and John Day Project, they are required to meet 1 of 7 best technologies available (BTA) to minimize impingement mortality at 125.94(c) and to minimize adverse effects from entrainment at 125.94(f).

The Lower Columbia River dams are part of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) which has a series of Biological Opinions (BiOps) issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These BiOps require actions called reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) to minimize and address adverse effects to threatened and endangered salmon. Currently, the FCRPS 2014 BiOp and Supplemental BiOp are in effect and require the dams in the FCRPS to comply with RPAs from hydropower operations to increase threatened and endangered juvenile fish survivability and minimize fish mortality. These include operations and configuration improvements such as increased spilling to maximize fish passage through dams to achieve a 96% survival for juvenile spring Chinook Salmon and steelhead and 93% for subyearling chinook salmon. RPAs 18-20 are specific to optimizing the configurations and operations for the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and the John Day Project. RPAs 27 and 29-32 also require measures to optimize dam operations. As an example RPA, Table 17 shows RPA 32 for hydropower operations, which requires the Lower Columbia River and Lower Snake River hydroelectric projects to develop annual Fish Passage Plans (FPP) in coordination with NOAA and other federal, state and tribal agencies to prioritize, optimize, and maintain operations and maintenance for each facility to maintain high levels of fish survivability.

Table 17. RPA 32 for Hydropower Operations in 2014 FCRPS Supplemental BiOp for Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and John Day Project

RPA No.	Action Description	Implementation Plans, Annual Progress Reporting and Comprehensive RPA Evaluations
Hydropower Strategy 4—Operate and Maintain Facilities at Corps' Mainstem Projects to Maintain Biological Performance		
32	**Fish Passage Plan** The Corps will annually prepare a FPP in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the Regional Forum through the FPOM. The Corps will operate its projects (including juvenile and adult fish passage facilities) year-round in accordance with the criteria in the FPP. Comments developed by NOAA Fisheries on the draft FPP shall be reconciled by the Corps in writing to NOAA Fisheries' satisfaction before release of the final FPP. Key elements of the plan include: ▪ Operate according to project-specific criteria and dates to operate and maintain fish facilities, turbine operating priorities, and spill patterns; ▪ Operate according to fish transportation criteria; ▪ Maintain turbine operations within the 1% of best efficiency range; ▪ Maintain spillway discharge levels and dates to provide project spill for fish passage; ▪ Implement TDG monitoring plan; ▪ Operate according to protocols for fish trapping and handling; ▪ Take advantage of low river conditions, low reservoir elevations or periods outside the juvenile migration season to accomplish repairs, maintenance, or inspections so there is little or no effect on juvenile fish; ▪ Coordinate routine and non-routine maintenance that affects fish operations or structures to eliminate and/or minimize fish operation impacts; ▪ Schedule routine maintenance during non-fish passage periods; ▪ Conduct non-routine maintenance activities as needed; and ▪ Coordinate criteria changes and emergency operations with FPOM. **Operations and Maintenance** ▪ Provide redundancy or contingency plans, developed in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the Regional Forum, which will assure that key adult fish passage facility equipment operates as necessary to minimize long-term adult passage delays. ▪ Evaluate the condition of items necessary (e.g., spillway hoist systems, cranes, turbine units, AWS systems, etc.) to provide safe and effective fish passage and develop a prioritized list of these items that are likely to require maintenance now or within the term of this Opinion.	**Implementation Plans** ▪ The FPP is prepared annually. **Annual Progress Report** ▪ Not applicable. **2013 and 2016 Comprehensive RPA Evaluation Reports** ▪ Not applicable.

The USACE publishes Fish Passage Plans each year on the technologies and operations each project uses to optimize fish survivability for threatened and endangered species as required by the FCRPS 2014 BiOp. The Corps develops these plans in conjunction with the Fish Passage Operations and Maintenance (FPOM) workgroup, a consortium of federal, state, and tribal agencies. Together, they determine detailed operations and maintenance procedures annually to optimize fish passage and maintain high rates of survivability.

Generally, the hydroelectric generating facilities' approach to maximum fish survivability is to route fish away from intakes for hydroelectric generating water that enters turbines, which are believed to have a higher likelihood of harming or killing fish. Instead, the facilities operate their dam spillways and non-turbine fish passage structures to encourage fish to use them, and at the Bonneville Project and John Day Project employ physical means to discourage fish from entering the intakes for hydroelectric generating water. These efforts to provide fish passage through non-turbine routes have been successful. According to the FCRPS 2016 BiOp Evaluation, 76-99% of juvenile salmonids through 2015, use non-turbine routes. The high rate of juvenile salmonids using non-

turbine routes also translates to fish not being impinged or entrained in cooling water intake structures, which are downstream of the intakes for hydroelectric generating water.

Optimal spill requirements for fish passage are complex. The USACE in consultation with FPOM develops a Fish Operations Plan that specifies spill schedules including, flow, timing and shape of the spill to best maximize fish passage over the dams. The Fish Passage Plans (FPPs) require implementation of these spill schedules in addition to maintenance of structures leading to the spillways to ensure they are free of debris. All of the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric generating facilities also have juvenile fish passage structures, which provide alternative non-turbine pathways to bypass the dam. The Bonneville Project and John Day Project have submersible traveling screens (STS) which route fish to fish passage structures and deflect fish from entering into hydroelectric generating water intake structures that go to turbines. The Bonneville Project and John Day Project further use cold attraction water near juvenile fish passage structures to encourage fish to use these structures. Each of the facilities maintain and inspect screens leading to fish passage structures or diverting fish to structures regularly to ensure they are free of trash and debris. These structures are also operated according to FPP guidelines, such as specifying the water levels in gatewells leading to fish passage structures.

Where fish do enter the intake for hydroelectric generating waters and from where cooling water is withdrawn, the turbines are operated close to peak efficiency, which is believed to be optimal for fish to pass through turbines with the lowest mortality and harm. At lower flows, fish may enter parts of the turbine which will damage them. At too high flows, fish may not survive passage through turbines. At peak efficiency flows, juvenile fish may pass through the turbines with the least amount of damage. FPPs require that turbines at the Lower Columbia River hydroelectric generating facilities operate within +/- 1% of peak efficiency. Additionally, it requires turbines to be operated in priority order based on optimizing fish passage, related to location, turbine operation, and configuration. Thus, these technologies and operations together work to optimize fish passage.

The FPPs also have extensive maintenance and operation requirements, such as inspecting fish passage facilities 3 times a day, 7 days a week during fish passage, preventive maintenance and repair of submersible traveling screens, and ensuring trash racks are cleaned. These FPPs specifically list when and where different technologies should be operated to maximize fish passage. The Fish Passage Plan for 2018-2019 also describes detailed inspection and reporting criteria, including weekly written inspection reports to NOAA for out-of-criteria situations, adjustments to resolve issues, impacts to fish passage and survival, and equipment calibration. These actions, in sum, ensure that each project is evaluating and operating its systems to maximize fish survivability for threatened and endangered species. Because the FCRPS 2014 BiOp requires annual updates to FPPs, the hydropower facilities continually evaluate and optimize their operations to maximize fish passage.

To evaluate the adequacy and optimization of the hydropower operations and configuration, the projects conducted Juvenile Dam Passage Survival tests to assess the adequacy of technologies and found the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake hydropower projects were already meeting the 96% and 93% survival targets for fish passage in the FCRPS 2016 Comprehensive Evaluation. In addition, as previously stated, the 2016 Evaluation includes results showing juvenile salmonid use of non-turbine routes to be 76-99%. This further shows the effectiveness of technologies and operations at the hydropower facilities on the Lower Columbia River to encourage salmonids to avoid cooling water intake structures, thus minimizing impingement mortality and entrainment.

Though the focus of these studies are threatened and endangered species, the combination of technologies to deter fish from intakes, encourage fish to travel through fish passage structures or over spillways, and decrease velocities through turbines, for example, all act to minimize impingement and entrainment of aquatic life at cooling water intakes. Fish surveys at the John Day Project have noted bull trout, lamprey, juvenile sturgeon, and other listed species in juvenile fish bypass structures, indicating that other fish species use the structures designed for juvenile salmonid survival.

Table 18 summarizes the general technologies used at each project to maximize fish survivability from hydroelectric operations, described in the 2018-2019 FPP and 2016 BiOp Comprehensive Evaluation Report. It also summarizes dam passage survival rates for each project. Table 19 summarizes fish survival rates by fish species from 2008-2013.

Table 18. Hydropower Operations at Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, John Day Project for Fish Survival (2018-2019)

	BTA	Average Fish Survival Rates
Bonneville Project	*Non-turbine routes*: spill to maximize fish passage for juvenile salmonids, fish passage structures, attraction flow to fish passage structures, submersible traveling screens (STS) to deter fish from entering main unit turbines, vertical bar screens (VBS) near intakes, streamlined trashracks, *Turbine routes*: operate turbines at +/- 1% peak efficiency flows, operate turbines in priority order to maximize fish passage	96-98% (2011-2012)
The Dalles Lock and Dam	*Non-turbine routes*: spill to maximize fish passage for juvenile salmonids, fish passage structures via ice trash sluiceway (ITS) *Turbine routes*: operate turbines at +/- 1% peak efficiency flows, operate turbines in priority order to maximize fish passage	94-99% (2010-2012)
John Day Project	*Non-turbine routes*: spill to maximize fish passage for juvenile salmonids, temporary spillway weirs (TSWs) to encourage fish passage over spillway, fish passage structures with juvenile bypass structure (JBS), attraction flow to fish passage structures, STS to deter fish from entering main unit turbines, VBS near intakes, streamlined trashracks, *Turbine routes*: operate turbines at +/- 1% peak efficiency flows, operate turbines in priority order to maximize fish passage	94-99% (2011-2012)

Table 19. Juvenile Dam Passage Survival 2008-2013, 2014 FCRPS BiOp

Dam	Year	Species	Survival[1] %	Spill Operation Target	Spill Operation Actual
Bonneville	2011	Yearling Chinook Salmon	95.69	100 kcfs	100 kcfs
Bonneville	2011	Steelhead	97.55	100 kcfs	100 kcfs
Bonneville	2012	Subyearling Chinook Salmon	97.39	85 kcfs day 121 kcfs night 95 kcfs 24 hrs	149 kcfs 149 kcfs
The Dalles	2010	Yearling Chinook Salmon	96.41	40%	40%
The Dalles	2011	Yearling Chinook Salmon	96.00	40%	40%
The Dalles	2010	Steelhead	95.34	40%	40%
The Dalles	2011	Steelhead	99.52	40%	40%
The Dalles	2010	Subyearling Chinook Salmon	94.04	40%	40%
The Dalles	2012	Subyearling Chinook Salmon	94.69	40%	40%
John Day	2011	Yearling Chinook Salmon	96.66 97.84	30% 40%	30% 40%
John Day	2011	Steelhead	98.36 98.97	30% 40%	30% 40%
John Day	2012	Yearling Chinook Salmon	96.73	30% 40%	37.1% 37.1%
John Day	2012	Steelhead	97.44	30% 40%	37.1% 37.1%
John Day	2012	Subyearling Chinook Salmon	94.14	30% 40%	37.9% 37.9%

The EPA has determined the best technology available (BTA) for minimizing impingement mortality and entrainment at the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and the John Day Project to be the technologies in Table 18. These BTA fall under 40 CFR 125.94(c)(6), systems of technologies, and is 1 of the 7 BTA standards under 40 CFR 125.94(c) for minimizing impingement of fish in cooling water intake structures.

The systems of technologies to address impingement mortality under 40 CFR 125.94(c)(6) must be informed by an impingement technology performance optimization study at 40 CFR 122.21(r)(6)(ii). To evaluate the juvenile dam passage survival performance standards, the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, and the John Day Project conducted at least two years of testing to determine fish survival targets at each project described earlier with results summarized in Tables 18 and 19. As described earlier, the FCRPS 2014 BiOp RPAs further require annual studies to optimize fish passage. In addition, each facility has an RPA to optimize its operations for survival of threatened and endangered salmon, which require annual or biannual BiOp Implementation reports. The EPA has determined that these biological studies and additional studies required by the FCRPS 2014 Supplemental BiOp meet the conditions of an impingement technology performance optimization study at 40 CFR 122.21(r)(6)(ii).

The EPA has further determined that BTA for minimizing impingement mortality and entrainment are the system of technologies in Table 18. Biological studies in the 2014 FCRPS Supplemental

BiOp show survival rates for multiple endangered juvenile salmonids over 90% with technologies from 2008-2013. In comparison, 40 CFR 125.94(c)(7) requires a 12-month impingement mortality of no more than 24%, or a 76% survivability rate. Hydroelectric generating facilities have further optimized operations and technologies through improvements documented in annual Fish Passage Plans. Thus, the existing systems of technologies at the facilities are effective in the prevention of impingement and entrainment at cooling water intakes.

40 CFR 125.98(f) also require the EPA to describe how specific factors were considered in assessing the adequacy of BTA entrainment technology. These factors are: numbers and types of organisms, impact from changes in particulate emissions from technologies, land availability, remaining useful plant life, and quantified and qualified social benefits and costs. The EPA considered the effectiveness of the entrainment technology in protecting numbers and types of organisms most heavily in determining the BTA for entrainment. The BTA for entrainment rely heavily on preventing entrainment of organisms in the intake, which provides the most benefits for potentially affected organisms. There are no particulate emission considerations from the proposed BTA entrainment technologies. The EPA weighed land availability less because of the impractability of significantly changing the cooling water intake from the scroll case, which would require significant construction in the internal hydroelectric generating operations. In addition, preventing fish from entering into the cooling water intake, the current entrainment BTA, is more effective in reducing harmful impacts to organisms. Similarly, the EPA weighed remaining useful plant life less, since the current entrainment BTA provides more benefits to organisms. The EPA considered the entrainment BTA to have quantified and qualitative social benefits regarding protection of fish and the economic benefits to communities with fishing recreation.

Though these optimization studies are for juvenile salmonids, these fish species are a reasonable proxy for other fish species, such as bull trout, lamprey, juvenile sturgeon observed in juvenile fish passage structures, since threatened and endangered salmon are the most sensitive species. In addition, as described earlier, the rate of juvenile salmonids entering in non-turbine pathways range from 76-99% showing that fish in general may be avoiding hydroelectric water intake structures which supply water from which cooling water intakes withdraw. The permits also require compliance with annual Fish Passage Plans. These BTA with other permit requirements will help ensure that fish impingement mortality and entrainment at cooling water intake structures are minimized and that they are maintained and optimized throughout the permit cycle.

VII. Environmental Justice Considerations

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs each federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities." The EPA strives to enhance the ability of overburdened communities to participate fully and meaningfully in the permitting process for EPA-issued permits, including NPDES permit. "Overburdened" communities can include minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous populations or communities. For more information, please visit http://ww.epa.gov/compliance/ej/plan-ej/.

As a part of the permit development process, the EPA Region 10 conducted screening analyses to determine whether the permit actions could affect overburdened communities. The EPA used a nationally consistent geospatial tool that contains demographic and environmental data for which

enhanced outreach may be warranted. As part of the screening process, it was determined that McNary Lock and Dam and The Dalles Lock and Dam were near overburdened communities.

The McNary Lock and Dam is located within or near a Census block group that is potentially overburdened because of the location of the facility (93rd percentile) and the EJ Index for Cumulative Direct Water Discharge (84th percentile). The Dalles Lock and Dam is located within or near a Census block group that is potentially overburdened because of the EJ Index for Cumulative Direct Water Discharge (81st percentile). In order to ensure that individuals near the facility are able to participate meaningfully in the permit process, the EPA is conducting the following enhanced outreach activities **[Insert here]**.

Regardless of whether a facility is located near a potentially overburdened community, the EPA encourages permittees to review (and to consider adopting, where appropriate) "Promising Practices for Permit Applicants Seeking EPA-Issued Permits: Ways to Engage Neighboring Communities" (see https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/05/09/2013-10945/epa-activities-to-promote-environmental-justice-in-the- permit-application-process#p-104. Examples of promising practices include thinking ahead about community's characteristics and the effects of the permit on the community, engaging the right community leaders, providing progress or status reports, inviting members of the community for tours of the facility, providing informational materials translated into different languages, setting up a hotline for community members to voice concerns or request information, follow up, and other activities.

VIII. Other Legal Requirements

A. State Certification

Section 401 of the CWA, 33 USC §1341, requires the EPA to seek a certification from the state that the conditions of the permits are stringent enough to comply with Washington water quality standards, including the state antidegradation policy, before issuing the final permit. Federal regulations at 40 CFR §124.53 allows for the state to stipulate more stringent conditions in the permit, if the certification cites the CWA or state law upon which that condition is based.

The regulations require a certification to include statements of the extent to which each condition of the permit can be made less stringent without violating the requirements of state law.

The EPA previously requested that Ecology review the draft permits and provide a preliminary certification pursuant to 40 CFR 124.53. Ecology provided EPA with their draft CWA § 401 Certification for the draft permits on October **Insert Date, 2018**. See Appendix A.

After the public comments have been evaluated and addressed, preliminary final permits will be sent to the State to begin the final certification process. If the state authorizes different or additional conditions as part of the certification, the permit may be changed to reflect these conditions.

B. Endangered Species Act [16 USC § 1531 et al.] [Will be updating species in this section]

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) if their actions could beneficially or adversely affect any threatened or endangered species. The EPA developed a Biological Evaluation (BE) [see Appendix C] to evaluate potential impacts to ESA species. The EPA believes that the proposed permit is ***not likely to adversely affect*** **[Insert species]**, and ***no effect*** for the remaining ESA species listed below. Table

20 lists the threatened or endangered species in the Lower Columbia River and the EPA's determinations.

Table 20. List of Threatened/Endangered Species in the Lower Columbia River and EPA's Determination **[Insert updated species list, conclusions and determinations.]**

C. Essential Fish Habitat

Essential fish habitat (EFH) is the waters and substrate (sediments, etc.) necessary for fish to spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (January 21, 1999) requires the EPA to consult with NOAA Fisheries when a proposed discharge has the potential to adversely affect EFH (i.e., reduce quality and/or quantity of EFH).

The EFH regulations define an adverse effect as any impact which reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH and may include direct (e.g. contamination or physical disruption), indirect (e.g. loss of prey, reduction in species' fecundity), site specific, or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions. The EPA has prepared an EFH assessment as part of the Biological Evaluation which appears in Appendix C.

The EPA has determined that issuance of these permits is not likely to adversely affect EFH within the State of Washington. The EPA has provided NOAA Fisheries with copies of the draft permit and fact sheet during the public notice period. Any comments received from NOAA Fisheries regarding EFH will be considered prior to reissuance of this permit.

D. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 USC § 4321 et.seq.]

Regulations at 40 CFR 122.49, list the federal laws that may apply to the issuance of permits i.e., ESA, National Historic Preservation Act, the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), NEPA, and Executive Orders, among others. The NEPA compliance program requires analysis of information regarding potential impacts, development and analysis of options to avoid or minimize impacts; and development and analysis of measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

Since hydroelectric generating facilities are not new sources (i.e., they do not have any EPA-promulgated ELGs or new source performance standards (NSPS) specific to their operation), the EPA determined that no Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) are required under NEPA.

E. Historic Preservation Act

These permits will not authorize the construction of any water resources facility or the impoundment of any water body or have any effect on historical property.

F. Paperwork Reduction Act [44 USC § 3501 et seq.]

The information collection required by this permit has been approved by OMB under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C.3501 et seq., in submission made for the NPDES permit program and assigned OMB control numbers 2040-0086 (NPDES permit application) and 2040-0004 (discharge monitoring reports). Additionally, this proposed permit requires electronic reporting for discharge monitoring reports to reduce reporting time and paper mailing costs.

G. Standard Permit Provisions

Specific regulatory management requirements for NPDES permits are contained in 40 CFR 122.41. These conditions are included in the permits as standard regulatory language that must be included in all NPDES permits. The standard regulatory language covers requirements such as monitoring, recording, reporting requirements, compliance responsibilities, and other general requirements.

REFERENCES

EPA. 1991. Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, EPA/505/2-90-001, March 1991. http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0264.pdf

EPA. 2010. U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, EPA-833-K-10-001, September 2010. http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/writermanual.cfm?program_id=45

Washington Department of Ecology. 2013. Washington Water Quality Standards web site. http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/58/0102.pdf. Accessed July 18, 2018.

[**Insert references.**]
2014 FCRPS BiOp, Draft Idaho GP and Fact Sheet, R1 references, 316(b), EALs

APPENDIX A. WASHINGTON PRELIMINARY CWA SECTION 401 CERTIFICATION

APPENDIX B. EPA, WASHINGTON AND TRIBAL OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-130
Seattle, Washington 98101
206/553-0523 or
1-800-424-4EPA (within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington)

APPENDIX C: BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

A copy of the Biological Evaluation will be available upon request or from EPA Region 10 Website at:

APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA